

ICPSR 2039

**Survey of Adults on Probation,
1995: [United States]**

Description

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Bibliographic Description

ICPSR Study No.: 2039

Title: Survey of Adults on Probation, 1995: [United States]

Principal Investigator(s): United States Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics

Bibliographic Citation: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. SURVEY OF ADULTS ON PROBATION, 1995: [UNITED STATES] [Computer file]. Conducted by U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. ICPSR ed. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [producer and distributor], 1999. doi:10.3886/ICPSR02039.v1

Scope of Study

Summary: The 1995 Survey of Adults on Probation (SAP) was the first national survey to gather information on the individual characteristics of adult probationers. The SAP was a two-part nationally representative survey consisting of a records check based on probation office administrative records and personal interviews with probationers. The records check provided detailed information for 5,867 probationers on current offenses and sentences, criminal histories, levels of supervision and contacts, disciplinary hearings and outcomes, and demographic characteristics. Only adults with a formal sentence to probation who were not considered absconders were included in the records check. Excluded were persons supervised by a federal probation agency, those only on parole, persons on presentence or pretrial diversion, juveniles, and absconders. The records check forms were completed by a probation officer or by another person knowledgeable about probation office records. A subset of the population selected for the records check was selected for a personal interview, resulting in a total of 2,030 completed interviews. The personal interview sample excluded from the records check sample probationers not on active probation (defined as being required to make office visits at any interval), those incarcerated, and those in residential treatment. Respondents were asked about current offense(s) and supervision, criminal history, alcohol and drug use and treatment, mental health treatment, demographic characteristics, and a variety of socioeconomic characteristics such as employment, income, receipt of welfare, housing, number of children and child support, and living conditions while growing up.

Subject Term(s): arrest records, criminal histories, demographic characteristics, offender profiles, probation, probationers, sentencing, supervised liberty

Geographic Coverage: United States

Time Period: 1995

Date(s) of Collection: December 1994 - September 1995

Universe: The universe came from the 1991 Census of Probation and Parole Agencies and included agencies that supervised adult felons on probation only, adult misdemeanants on probation only, and both adult felons and misdemeanants.

Data Type: survey data, and administrative records data

Data Collection Notes: The codebook is provided as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided through the ICPSR Website on the Internet.

Methodology

Sample: The records check sample was selected from a universe of 2,627 state, county, and municipal probation agencies with a total of 2,618,132 formally sentenced probationers. The sample design was a stratified two-stage selection. In the first stage, probation agencies were stratified into 16 strata defined by government branch (executive or judicial) and level (state or local), and census region (Northeast, Midwest, South, or West). The 43 largest probation agencies were made self-representing and were selected into the sample with certainty. The remaining 2,584 probation agencies were not self-representing and were grouped within strata into 122 roughly equal-size clusters. One agency was selected from each of the 122 clusters, with probability of selection proportional to size, for a total of 165 agencies. From the records check sample, 4,703 probationers were selected for personal interviews, which made up the second survey component. Because probationers on inactive supervision were excluded from the personal interview sample, the personal interview component represents a somewhat smaller share of the nation's probationers (2,065,896) than the records check (2,620,560). For the personal interview sample, 122 of the 206 agencies originally selected for the records check were chosen. The 43 largest self-representing agencies were selected with certainty. Of the 122 clusters of agencies that were not self-representing, 79 were selected, using a systematic sample. Excluding agencies in the sample that would only participate in the records checks resulted in a total of 101 probation offices in which interviews were conducted.

Data Source: criminal records from state, county, and municipal probation agencies, and personal interviews

Extent of Processing: Standardized missing values.

Performed recodes and/or calculated derived variables.

Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

Access and Availability

Note: A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the [summary of holdings](#). Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the [file manifest](#).

Original ICPSR Release: 1999-08-18

Version History: The last update of this study occurred on 2006-03-30.

2006-03-30 - File CB2039.ALL.PDF was removed from any previous datasets and flagged as a study-level file, so that it will accompany all downloads.

2005-11-04 - On 2005-03-14 new files were added to one or more datasets. These files included additional setup files as well as one or more of the following: SAS program, SAS transport, SPSS portable, and Stata system files. The metadata record was revised 2005-11-04 to reflect these additions.

Dataset(s):

- DS1: Records Check Data
- DS2: Personal Interview Data